



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Great Government Through the General Management System – Quality, Timeliness, Value
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

CLASS SPECIFICATION

CLASSIFIED

EMERGENCY ROOM PSYCHIATRIST

Class No. 000740

■ CLASSIFICATION PURPOSE

Under general direction, to perform emergency psychiatric assessment, diagnosis and treatment of patients; and to perform related work.

■ DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Incumbents in these positions are licensed physicians who exercise independent medical judgment in assessing psychiatric emergencies. This class is found in the Health and Human Services Agency. Incumbents in this class work on a permanent, part-time, hourly basis, without benefits and are not represented. The Emergency Room Psychiatrist differs from Psychiatrist in that the Psychiatrist is responsible for the day-to-day delivery of psychiatric patient care. On night and weekend shifts, the Emergency Room Psychiatrist is the responsible physician in the absence of the Medical Director.

■ FUNCTIONS

The examples of essential functions listed in the class specification are representative but not necessarily exhaustive or descriptive of any one position in the class. Management is not precluded from assigning other related functions not listed herein if such duties are a logical assignment for the position.

Essential Functions:

1. Performs emergency psychiatric assessments.
2. Evaluates the immediate severity of mental illness and determines the priority of patient treatment.
3. Arranges for patient admission.
4. Writes admitting evaluation reports.
5. Provides consultations and assessments for community-based emergency rooms to authorize and arrange for the transfer of patients.
6. Determines the disposition, referral and placement of patients for alcohol and drug detoxification.
7. Evaluates medication refills for county regional and contract clinic patients.
8. Performs court-ordered evaluations and assessments from the Mental Health Counselor's Offices.
9. Performs telephone consultations and crisis interventions.

■ KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of:

- Diagnostic and treatment methodologies for mental illness and psychiatric/emotional disorders.
- Current diagnostic classification.
- General medicine and its relationship to mental illness.
- Preventive medicine.
- Diagnosis and treatment of acute alcohol and drug disorders.
- Crisis intervention.
- Legal issues such as conservatorship, related Welfare & Institutions Codes, Lanterman, Petris, Short Act and patient rights.
- Community organizations, with particular regard to medical and mental health services, programs, and facilities, especially shelters, specialized treatment programs, homeless services and crisis services.

Skills and Abilities to:

- Diagnose and treat a wide range of types and severity of mental disorders, and provide psychiatric consultations.
- Communicate effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Work effectively in a multi-disciplinary team setting.
- Maintain effective relations with patients, families and co-workers.
- Act as an effective representative for the County of San Diego and apply an optimum level of customer service when interacting with professional staff, subordinates, patients, employees, and the public.

■ EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE

Education, training or experience, which clearly demonstrate possession of the knowledge, skills and abilities stated above. An example of qualifying education/experience is:

1. Graduation from a U.S. accredited medical or osteopathic school or certified for foreign studies equivalent to an M.D. or D.O. degree and completion of a three (3) year psychiatric residency in an approved residency program. Additional experience in an emergency setting is preferred. Experience gained through private practice is considered qualifying.

■ ESSENTIAL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

The physical characteristics described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of the classification. Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable an individual with qualified disabilities to perform the essential functions of a job, on a case-by-case basis.

Frequent: sitting, walking, standing. Occasional: neck and waist bending, squatting, kneeling, neck and waist twisting, repetitive use of hands, simple and power hand grasping, fine hand manipulation, hand pushing and pulling, reaching above and below shoulder level. Must be able to lift up to 10 lbs., and occasionally 100 lbs.

■ SPECIAL NOTES, LICENSES, OR REQUIREMENTS

License

A valid license to practice medicine in the State of California is required at the time of application.

A valid California class C driver's license, which must be maintained throughout employment in this class, is required at time of appointment, or the ability to arrange transportation for field travel. Employees in this class may be required to use their own personal vehicle.

Certification/Registration

A valid National Provider Identification Number (NPI) is required at the time of employment, or proof of application must be provided within sixty (60) days of beginning employment. Incumbents are required to maintain the NPI throughout employment in this class.

Work Conditions

Exposure to excessive noise. Working with biohazards such as: blood pathogens, sewage, hospital waste, etc.

Background Investigation

Must have a reputation for honesty and trustworthiness. Misdemeanor and/or felony convictions may be disqualifying depending on type, number, severity, and recency. Prior to appointment, applicants will be subject to a background investigation.

**New: January 6, 1995
Reviewed: Spring 2003
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